

**Blessed Trinity/St. John Evangelist
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025 6:30 PM St. John's Parish Hall**

Council Members Present: Sarah Schueffner, Rick Michaletz, Al Mayer, Scott Birenbaum, Terry Hartman, Nancy Mathieu, Mary Jo Schultz, Donna Stieghorst, Mason Klahn, Siena Mooren and Terry Rotter

Parish Staff Present: Fr. Michael Lawinger and Sandy Jordan

Excused Absence: Bridgitt Zielke and Jim O'Neill

Call to Order: Sarah Schueffner

Approval of Agenda:

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mason Klahn seconded it.

Approval of Minutes:

Rick Michaletz moved the minutes of August 19, 2025, Joint Pastoral Council. Scott Birenbaum seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as written.

Prayer Instruction: Lectio Divina

Father led those in attendance in prayer using the Lectio Divina method which is a meditative prayer that using Scripture to encounter God's presence and foster a personal, deeper relationship with Him. There are four parts to the prayer:

- Lectio (Reading) - slowly reading scripture to find a word or phrase that resonates.
- Meditatio (Meditation) - reflecting on the word or phrase and its meaning and how it applies to your life.
- Oratio (Prayer) - responding to God in prayer with gratitude or confession.
- Contemplatio (Contemplation) - resting in God's presence and savoring the encounter.

Old Business:

- CGS/RE Update

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is progressing with the hope that it will be ready to go in December/January. It is taking a little longer than anticipated, but it was felt that it is important to get it done right, so the small delay is fine.

Religious Education has begun classes. Natalie Kohlhagen has done a great job jumping in to get everything set up for this year. They were able to recruit the teachers necessary and participation is good.

New Business:

- Pastoral Council Member Listing – to better communicate with parishioners, a poster with current Pastoral Council Members' pictures and names will be posted in each church entry. Members are asked to provide Sarah Schueffner with a head shot to be used by September 30.
- Shared Folders and Meeting Information – all Pastoral Council members should have access to the shared files that have been created for all PC information. Minutes will be posted in the shared folder within one week of each meeting. Members are encouraged to review the information that is shared in these folders. It was noted that Terry Rotter and Mason Klahn have not been able to log into the shared folder sites as of this time.

- Deanery Meeting – Scott Birenbaum will not be able to attend the upcoming Deanery meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 in the morning (9:00 am-12:00 pm). We are looking for someone to attend to represent the two parishes.
- Festivals at our Parishes – It was discussed that in the future as we are planning various festivals/events at the two parishes, we should align these activities with the liturgical calendar better (i.e., at St. John's, Winterfest was changed to a celebration of the Feast of St. John the Evangelist). These activities should also be tied to the parish mission, which is the salvation of souls.
- Joint Parish Directory – The last joint parish directory was done in 2015, and Blessed Trinity did one in 2022. The idea of doing another joint directory was discussed, and it was decided to hold off until we can find someone that would take the lead on this project.
- Liaisons for Committees – It was decided that we no longer will have liaisons from the PC on each of the parish committees. The committees share their minutes with the PC (found in the shared files), and any questions regarding the committees can be discussed at PC meetings.

Pastor's Report:

Father Michael spoke about the Protestantization, or the mainstreaming of things seen throughout the various churches in the surrounding area. We should be asking ourselves about why we do things in the church and work to educate people regarding that.

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:

- Joint Pastoral Council Appendix

Closing Prayer – Fr. Michael

Important Dates:

- October 12 – BT & SJE Confirmation (Blessed Trinity)
- November 15 – Blessed Trinity's Autumn Fest